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PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997*

MAJOR PROGRAMME III. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Programme 45. Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development

1. The preparation, format and content of the medium-term plan and its revisions are governed by the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/PPBME Rules/1(1987)).

2. Regulation 3.11 provides, inter alia, that the medium-term plan shall be revised as necessary every two years to incorporate required programme changes and that the proposed revisions shall be as detailed as required to incorporate the programme implications of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the intergovernmental organs or international conferences since the adoption of the plan.

3. The revisions proposed below modify the relevant parts of the narrative of programme 45, Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, which was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/253 of 21 December 1990 and issued in document A/45/6/Rev.1. The revisions update the narrative of the programme on the basis of recent legislative mandates and also reflect the changes resulting from current restructuring of the Secretariat.

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* After adoption by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, the complete revised medium-term plan will be issued in final printed form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/47/6/Rev.1).

4. The following text modifies paragraphs 45.1, 45.5, 45.6, 45.9 to 45.13, 45.18, 45.20 to 45.23, 45.26 and 45.27 of A/45/6/Rev.1.

A. Programme

Paragraph 45.1 — Add a reference to General Assembly resolution 46/151 of 18 December 1991.

Paragraph 45.5 — Replace paragraph 45.5 with the following:

"The final review and appraisal of the programme of action undertaken by the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session concluded that 'the circumstances which led to the adoption of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 are as valid today as they were in 1986. Assessments made by African countries themselves or by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and many other organizations and independent observers point to the fact that Africa's socio-economic conditions actually worsened overall over the past five years of the Programme period.' As a result, the challenge of African economic recovery and development will remain a priority concern of the international community during the period of the current medium-term plan. Responding to this challenge, the international community, including the United Nations system, and the countries of Africa have renewed their commitment to an agenda of cooperation for the sustainable social economic development of Africa, which was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/151 as the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s. The Agenda is specific and clearly focused on goals and targets to be achieved within that frame."

Paragraph 45.6 — In the first sentence, replace "Programme of Action and subsequent" with "New Agenda and other".

Paragraph 45.9 — Replace paragraph 45.9 with the following:

"In its resolution 46/151, the General Assembly requested Governments, organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to take appropriate measures in order to implement the commitments contained in the New Agenda. In the annex to that resolution, it requested the various United Nations organizations and specialized agencies, in their respective areas and sectors, to devise specific programmes for Africa that are consistent with the elements of the New Agenda, and to devote adequate resources for their implementation. It also requested them to contribute to ensuring an efficient follow-up, monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Agenda. The need for effective public information

activities designed to raise international awareness of Africa's economic crisis has been recognized. The General Assembly established clear and specific follow-up, monitoring and evaluation arrangements for the implementation of the New Agenda and requested the Secretary-General to provide analytical assessments of its implementation and make concrete recommendations thereon to the Assembly and the Economic and Social Council."

Paragraph 45.10 — Replace paragraph 45.10 with the following:

"In response to that request and taking into account the experience gained in the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, the Secretary-General will establish a high-level consultative group consisting of high-level officials from the United Nations system and well-known personalities from around the world, which will meet about twice a year to make concrete recommendations on the implementation of the New Agenda that could serve as a basis for his submissions to the high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council and to the General Assembly. In addition, the existing Inter-agency Task Force on Africa established under the previous Programme of Action and chaired by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa will continue to be the framework for inter-agency consultations for the monitoring of the implementation of the New Agenda and the system-wide plan of action for African economic recovery and development."

Paragraph 45.11 — In the first sentence, after "Programme of Action" insert "for African Economic Recovery and Development".

Paragraph 45.12 — Replace the first sentence with the following: "In accordance with the responsibilities assigned to him, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Development will provide overall leadership and coordination of the United Nations system activities in support of African economic recovery, development and transformation, and in particular, promote and ensure the effective implementation of the New Agenda."

Paragraph 45.13 — Replace the second sentence with the following "That plan of action should incorporate/integrate the elements of the New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s." In the third sentence, replace "The Director-General for Development and International Cooperation" with "The Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Development."

B. Subprogrammes

SUBPROGRAMME 1. MOBILIZATION OF RESOURCES

Paragraph 45.18 — Add a reference to General Assembly resolution 46/151.

Paragraph 45.20 — At the end of subparagraph (a) (i), add the following: ", bearing in mind, in this regard, the targets set out on resource flows in paragraph 29 of the New Agenda. In this respect also, a study will be carried out on the overall resource flow to Africa in order to facilitate efforts to mobilize additional resources."

Add a new subparagraph (d) (iv) as follows:

"(d) (iv) To promote the proposal on the establishment of a diversification fund for Africa's commodities and, in this regard, to undertake a study on the need for and the feasibility of its establishment".

After subparagraph (d), insert new subparagraphs (e) and (f) as follows and renumber existing subparagraph (e) as (g):

"(e) To promote the implementation of the measures on Africa's debt envisioned by the New Agenda in its paragraph 26;

"(f) To encourage the international community to grant a substantial reduction in or removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers affecting African exports and to ensure that these exports continue to enjoy current preferential arrangements."

SUBPROGRAMME 2. MONITORING, ASSESSMENT AND FOLLOW-UP OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION PROGRAMMES, INCLUDING THEIR FINANCIAL ASPECTS

Paragraph 45.21 — Add a reference to General Assembly resolution 46/151.

Paragraph 45.22 — Replace paragraph 45.22 with the following:

"45.22 In renewing its commitment to Africa's recovery, development and transformation, the objective of the international community is to:

"(a) Provide greater support to the ongoing policy reforms and other measures taken by African Governments to promote socio-economic recovery and development;

"(b) Improve those factors which are necessary for the success of the New Agenda, in particular, the external environment, especially the debt burden, and the quality and modality of external assistance and cooperation;

"(c) Extend assistance in solving general problems of economic recovery, including the debt burden;

"(d) Ensure a practical and efficient monitoring of the implementation of various measures contained in the New Agenda and the System-wide Plan of Action."

Paragraph 45.23 — At the end of the first sentence, add the following: ", making the existing monitoring machinery more effective and directly related to the specific programmes, plans and activities agreed upon in the System-wide Plan of Action and more generally, the New Agenda, taking into account inputs from relevant United Nations organs, Members States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations."

After paragraph 45.25, add a new paragraph 45.26 as follows and renumber subsequent paragraphs accordingly:

"45.26 The monitoring of all the above activities related to this programme, to the System-wide Plan of Action and more generally to the New Agenda will be made through the established Inter-agency Task Force on Africa Critical Economic Situation, Recovery and Development. The Task Force will ensure that the studies carried out will result in practical actions and that the overall action by the United Nations is coordinated and integrated."

SUBPROGRAMME 3. THE CAMPAIGN FOR GLOBAL AWARENESS OF THE CRITICAL ECONOMIC SITUATION IN AFRICA

Paragraph 45.26 (new para. 45.27) — Add a reference to General Assembly resolution 46/151.

Paragraph 45.27 (new para. 45.28) — After the third sentence, insert the following sentence: "A new dimension to the international campaign for global awareness of the critical economic situation in Africa was added by the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/151, which mandated the Secretary-General to ensure the continuation of effective public information activities and mobilization of efforts to raise international awareness of the economic crisis in Africa."

In the third sentence, replace "are welcome" with "deserve support".